

Evening Telegraph

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PHILADELPHIA.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1869.

THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

That portion of the report of the Secretary of the Navy most interesting to the citizens of Philadelphia is in reference to League Island. The Secretary states that a board of officers was appointed by his predecessor to report upon the condition of the various navy yards, and that he himself made a tour of inspection last summer, visiting most of those upon the Atlantic coast. Nearly all of them were found to be of small capacity, and entirely inadequate to the requirements of the naval service at the present day. The small capacity of the yards, the Secretary very justly thinks, renders the naval establishment weak in a very important point, notwithstanding which he does not propose any large expenditures for the improvement of those in actual operation on the Atlantic coast. He does urge, however, the importance and necessity for commencing immediately the work of preparing League Island for the establishment of a great naval depot. The Secretary sets forth in plain terms the various disabilities of the present site, situated as it is in the midst of a great and growing city, and he suggests that the sale of this ground as fast as the various shops and other appliances can be removed will provide a large proportion of the funds required to make the necessary improvements at League Island. The Secretary thinks that this site is the best that could be selected for the purpose, and while calling the attention of Congress to its many advantages, he expresses the hope that the proper appropriations will be made for commencing work immediately.

The representations of the Secretary with regard to the insufficiency of our naval force in foreign waters are important. We do not think it essential, as he seems to suggest, that the United States should attempt to rival England and France in the number and strength of naval vessels on foreign stations, but we ought certainly to have enough well-constructed, well-armed, and fleet vessels to maintain our dignity and to afford adequate protection to our commerce. The Secretary recommends that ten seagoing ironclads be constructed for foreign service, and that the monitors be retained at home for harbor defense, for which they are particularly fitted. He also thinks that cruising vessels should be provided with ample steam power, to be used in case of necessity, but that they should have first-rate sailing qualities in addition, so as to be able to keep at sea without consuming coal. A number of vessels have been altered to fit them for sailing, and stringent orders have been issued forbidding the use of steam except in cases of emergency. The result has already been a large saving. An order similar to this was issued by Secretary Welles, but it was practically disregarded in a large number of instances by officers who found it much easier work to steam than to sail. It is to be hoped that the present head of the Navy Department will see that the policy of economy is carried out in a proper manner by his subordinates. This matter is of more consequence as the naval officers of the present day are not celebrated for being good sailors, and it is proper that they should have ample opportunities to learn how to manage vessels under canvas, and not be obliged to depend entirely on the engineers for the means of driving their vessels through the water.

The Secretary alludes to the experiments that have been made with torpedoes as offensive and defensive weapons, and announces the establishment of a Torpedo Corps, under the direction of the Bureau of Ordnance, for the purpose of making experiments and perfecting a system for the application of this means of defense to our coasts and harbors. Much is expected of this corps, and the results achieved thus far indicate that ere long torpedoes will be brought to a high state of perfection.

The character and training of petty officers and seamen are mentioned as of the highest importance, and the Secretary urges that it is necessary to devise some means to make the naval service popular with seamen, and to give to the means of expanding our force in time of war. He recommends that some plan be devised by which the seamen belonging to the United States may be registered, so that in time of war they can be designated and called upon. The Government now has no control over our seamen in time of war, and although civilians may be enrolled in the militia and be subject to a call, there is no authority by which seamen can be compelled to go on board ship and protect our harbors when an enemy is threatening at our gates.

With regard to the difficulty between the line and staff officers on the subject of relative rank, the Secretary very judiciously takes no sides, and contents himself by inviting wise and dispassionate legislation on the subject. The injustice of confining promotion for distinguished services to only one class of officers is pointed out, however, and justice is done to the staff by the recommendation that distinguished gallantry and good conduct in battle should be held to entitle any officer of any class who exhibits it to promotion in his corps.

New York City yesterday indulged in the luxury of a charter election, the vote cast being a slight one, and Tammany Hall, as a matter of course, making a clean sweep. The decent people of the city had but little to do with the affair, which was managed by the rough-and-ready element in the interest of

Tweed and the other grand schemers of Tammany. One of the Democratic candidates for alderman was shot a few days ago in a drunken political brawl, and it is doubtful if he will live to take the seat in the Common Council to which he was yesterday elected; while early in the morning yesterday another Democratic candidate for alderman shot and probably fatally wounded an antagonist in another drinking-saloon fray. While the people of New York permit such reckless desperadoes as these to control their municipal affairs, it is not surprising that their city should be the worst governed city in the world.

HENRY WARD BEECHER AND THE RICHARDSON AFFAIR.

THE New York Tribune of yesterday contains a card from Henry Ward Beecher, in which he states that the report of his remarks at the funeral service of Albert D. Richardson, which was published in the Tribune of the 4th instant, and republished in THE TELEGRAPH of the same day, was revised and corrected by himself. Its sentiments and statements are, therefore, deliberate utterances, for which he is fully responsible, as they are presented in the shape in which he desired them to appear before the public. The most singular characteristic of these remarks is, that while they purport to be part of the funeral service of a dead man, they are essentially a defense of the living preacher who uttered them. They clearly indicate that the Brooklyn divine felt that he had taken a doubtful if not a false step when he performed the so-called marriage service at the death-bed of Mr. Richardson, and that he was determined to improve the first occasion to justify his own proceedings. Whatever we may think of the excessively egotistical, ungenerous, and irreverent spirit which prompted him to seize such an opportunity for becoming his own champion, we cannot deny that a prompt and vigorous defense was necessary to shield his reputation from the injury it had received among all whose notions of marriage are not polluted by the modern free-love philosophy. We have no desire to discuss the tragedy itself, except so far as its attendant circumstances affect the doctrines and conduct of Mr. Beecher, and this is important only on account of the demoralizing influence of the approval of his proceedings which he is now seriously seeking. Treating the subject from this standpoint, we invite attention to the following facts:—The so-called marriage was preceded or commenced by a prayer by Mr. Frothingham, which contained, among other sentences, the following:—"Father, we thank Thee for what these two have been to each other, for what they may be yet." Few who consider the relations between Richardson and Mrs. McFarland will fail to deem the introduction of this sentiment into a religious ceremony as sufficiently revolting, but Beecher, not to be outdone by his reverend associate, was guilty of a still greater outrage. His proceedings, as reported, were as follows:—

"Mr. Beecher to Mr. Richardson:—Do you take this woman whom you have by your side now, in this hour, standing near the heavenly land, and renew to her the pledges of your love? Do you give your heart to her, and your name? Is she, before God and before these witnesses, your beloved, your honored, and your lawful wife?"

"Mr. Richardson (in an audible voice):—Yes."

"Mr. Beecher (turning to Mrs. Richardson):—And do you accept him as your husband in the Lord? And are you now to him a wife sacred and honored, bearing his name? And will you love him to the end of your life?"

"Mrs. Richardson:—I do, and will."

"Mr. Beecher:—Then by the authority given me by the Church of Christ, I do pronounce you husband and wife; and may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit rest upon you and abide with you. Amen."

This ceremony is peculiar in its verbiage, and making every allowance for the wide diversity of forms among the different sects of the United States, it is doubtful whether it constitutes in itself a legal marriage. He does not exact from either party the emphatic promise which constitutes the essential feature of the contract, but intermingles with the whole ceremony sentimentalism which may mean something more than a real marriage, or something less. The form of his questions implies that the connection existing between Richardson and Mrs. McFarland was in itself a marriage which was only formally recognized by what Beecher calls in his late card "a mortuary service for Mr. Richardson." If this interpretation be correct, the disciples of free-love could not obtain a more complaisant prophet. But if it is not, and if he intended the dying-bed service as neither more nor less than a bona fide legal marriage, his conduct is still open to strong censure for marrying a woman who, while she had notoriously been the wife of McFarland up to a recent period, had at best obtained a divorce of doubtful validity; or, as Mr. Beecher virtually confesses in his late card, it is by no means certain that "she was legally and morally free" from her first husband.

The defense of his participation in this ceremony, which Beecher made at the funeral service, was in itself scarcely less revolting than the original offense. We have never seen more bad logic, false sentiment, false religion, and bad temper crowded into the same space. His very first sentence sounds more like the utterance of a follower of Mahomet than the declaration of a believer in Christianity. Mr. Beecher said:—

"If I believed that this man by whose corpse I stand had broken down the wall and plucked the fairest flower in a neighbor's garden, and that he was struck dead for such a crime, surely I would say no word here to-day."

Turks may deem wives fair "flowers in a neighbor's garden," but this is surely not an appropriate idea for a Christian funeral sermon. The declaration that if he had believed Richardson guilty of the imputed sin he would not have spoken at all, is scarcely less objectionable. A Christian minister may not inappropriately speak at the funeral service of the worst of criminals. Proceeding in the defense of the dead man, chiefly in the direction in which it involved a defense of himself, Beecher announced that he had not "consciously violated any law of God, or of any canon of morality which human society has thrown around the household." If this be true, the public are curious to know what possible offenses are

condemned by the Beecherian code. The next idea is that Richardson, whether right or wrong, should be defended because he was a war correspondent, and, as if he had not sufficiently violated the proprieties of the occasion, Beecher then gave vent to a torrent of invective. Under the guise of defending Richardson, he denounced those who had criticized his own conduct as vile "things," "earth beetles," "fish flies," and "crawling worms." This ill-timed passion only proves how fully conscious he was of the utterly indefensible character of his own position, and it furnishes the last needed link of proof that he was unable to justify his conduct even to himself.

THE BLACK-FOOT INDIANS are reported to be on the war-path, engaged in the highly exhilarating sport of murdering and plundering white settlers in Montana Territory. A few days ago we also learned that the Cheyennes held in captivity more than twenty white boys and girls. The Quaker agents do not appear to have solved the vexatious Indian problem as yet, and Congress should find time during the present session to come to their assistance. The first step imperatively demanded is the breaking up of that "foul nest of thieves" called the Indian Bureau, the only feasible way of accomplishing which is by transferring the entire management of our Indian relations back to the War Department.

THE IMPORTUNITY OF OFFICE SEEKERS has become so great that Senator Trumbull, of Illinois, yesterday introduced a bill in Congress to relieve them from it by making it a misdemeanor for them to endorse applications for position under the Federal Government. It is doubtful if such a measure would prove beneficial, or even practicable; but it might possibly be worth a trial. The true solution of the difficulty is to be found only in the establishment of a civil service system, and it is to be hoped that Congress at its present session may find time and inclination to take the initiatory steps towards giving the country a class of thoroughly honest and capable office-holders.

THE POPE, in administering the iron-clad oath of fidelity to the Holy See, finds new recruits among the Italian Bishops. All but five have made the required vow. The ultramontanists present a solid front in favor of whatever dogmas his Holiness may see fit to initiate. When the delegates representing more liberal constituencies present themselves, the interest will increase to know what course they will take, although, as the administration of the oath is but a formal ceremony, it will scarcely be conclusive of the policy which may control them in the council.

FOR THE FIRST QUARTER of the fiscal year ending November 30, the receipts of cotton at Charleston were 192,759 bales, against 65,538 for the corresponding period of last year, and more than half of all last year's receipts together, which are stated at 199,101 bales. In the total figures, Charleston stands third on the list of cotton ports, New Orleans and Savannah being in the lead. This large increase is in the face of the advice of the newspapers to the planters to hold on to their cotton for higher prices, and it is not clear how they have done so now that the currency price is reduced.

THE PEOPLE of Chicago have been so successful with their first tunnel that they propose to build another, connecting the north and south divisions of the city. It is to cost \$200,000, and be ready for use by the first day of July, 1871. By the terms of the contract the bottom of the tunnel is to be thirty-five feet below low water mark, and it is to consist of three passages—ways, one for foot passengers and two for horses and vehicles. It must be admitted that Chicago is immeasurably ahead in the tunneling and divorce business.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

For additional Special Notices see the Inside Page

TO COUNTERACT

An opinion prevalent among some who have not tried us, that, because we are on Chestnut street and deal only in a class of clothing finer than ordinary Ready-made garments, our prices must be enormously high, we here publish a

LIST OF PRICES.

Light Weight Overcoats	Business Suits	\$12.50
Black Beaver Overcoats	Pastry	\$2.50
Black Beaver Overcoats	Vests	\$2.50
Chinchilla Overcoats	Whole suits	\$20.00
Colors, \$20, 25, 30, 35, 40	And all grades from \$20 to \$50	
Heavy Peter Pan Overcoats	Handsome Dress Suits	\$25 to \$50
\$15 to \$20	All black	\$25 to \$50
Youths' Overcoats from \$7 to \$25	Fine Trench	\$35 to \$50
Children's Overcoats from \$4 to \$10	Coats	\$15 to \$25
Garibaldi Suits from \$5 to \$10	Blue Cloth	\$25 to \$35
Prince Imperial Suits from \$6 to \$10	Boys' Jacket	\$4.00
Beauvais Suits from \$6 to \$10	Boys' Pants	\$2.00
And twenty other styles	Whole suit	\$8.00
Gents' Wrappers, \$5 to \$10	And all grades up to \$20	
	Metropolitan Suits from \$10 to \$20	
	Youths' Chestersuits from \$10 to \$20	

The list embraces only a small portion of our stock, but gives an idea of what buyers can do, and demonstrates that

THE VERY FINEST STYLES,

THE VERY FINEST QUALITIES,

THE VERY FINEST MAKERS

OF

GENTS', YOUTHS', AND CHILDREN'S

READY-MADE CLOTHING

can be sold and are being sold by us

VERY MUCH

CHEAPER

THAN PEOPLE THINK.

JOHN WANAMAKER,

Chestnut Street Clothing Establishment, Nos. 815 and 825

Chestnut Street.

"CLOSING SALE."

SPECIAL BARGAINS

IN FIRST-CLASS CLOTHING

OUR OVERCOATS ARE UNPARALLELED!

Chesterfields, Walking Coats, Haverdys, and Slatings

Jackets in every style and quality. Pants and Vests in every variety of style, and all at prices that cannot fail to suit any purchaser.

Every person who regards his own interest, comfort, and appearance should avail himself of this opportunity to secure a bargain in the best clothing in the city.

R. R. ADAMS,

SEVENTH and MARKET Streets.

11 4th

JOHN E. GOUGH

AT THE

ACADEMY OF MUSIC,

MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 13,

Subject—"HARRY."

HENRY WARD BEECHER.

Subject not yet announced.

TUESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 1.

HORACE GREELLEY.

"THE WOMAN QUESTION."

TUESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 2.

Tickets for the Course, \$2. Reserved Seats, Parquet Circle and Balcony, 75c. Stage Boxes, Standing Tickets, and Reserved Seats in Family Circle, 50c. Sold at Ashmead's, No. 781 Chestnut Street.

12 5 4

ST. CLEMENT'S CHURCH, TWENTH and CHERRY Streets.—During the season of Advent there will be service every Wednesday evening, at 7 1/2 o'clock. Choral service. Seats free. TRINITY, "The Missionary Church," by Rev. J. A. DREWES HARRIS.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

THE STAR COURSE OF LECTURES.

YOUNG FOLKS SERIES.

AFTERNOON LECTURES.

BY PAUL R. DU CHAILLÉ.

Mr. PAUL R. DU CHAILLÉ, the famous African explorer, will give a course of three lectures, to the YOUNG FOLKS of Philadelphia, in day time, as follows:

On SATURDAY AFTERNOON, December 11, "UNDER THE EQUATOR."

On WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, December 15, "AMONG THE CANNIBALS."

On SATURDAY AFTERNOON, December 18, "LOST IN THE JUNGLES."

The Lectures will be illustrated with immense paintings, including implements, weapons, warlike, and other attractive novelties. Mr. Du Chaillé will appear on one of these occasions in the identical costume worn by him in his travels.

Admission to each Lecture..... 25 cents

Reserved seats (costs)..... 50 cents

Tickets (with reserved seats) to Series..... \$1.00

Doors open at 2 1/2 o'clock

Orchestral Strands at 2 1/2

Tickets to be obtained at Gould's, No. 923 CHESTNUT Street, from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

THE STAR COURSE OF LECTURES.

THE LAST TWO OF THE FIRST SERIES.

R. J. DE CORDOVA.

ON THURSDAY EVENING, Dec. 9.

His last appearance this season.

Subject—"WHIPPIN' VS. SNIPPIN'."

(Breath of Promise of Marriage).

A HUMOROUS NONSENSE STORY.

WYNDELL PHILLIPS.

THURSDAY EVENING, Dec. 15.

Subject—"DANIEL O'CONNELL."

Admission, 50 cents; Reserved Seats, 75 cents.

Tickets for any of the lectures for sale at GOULD'S Piano Rooms, No. 923 CHESTNUT Street, and at the Academy on the evening of the Lecture.

Doors open at 7 o'clock

Orchestral Strands at 7 1/2

By the Hon. D. M. FOX and the Rev. Dr. JASTROW, and will continue for two weeks.

12 5 4

STEREOPTICON EXHIBITIONS

CALIFORNIA AND THE YOSEMITE VALLEY.

BY T. CLARKSON TAYLOR.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, Dec. 8. Subject—"CALIFORNIA AND THE YOSEMITE VALLEY."

FRIDAY EVENING, Dec. 10. Subject—"CALIFORNIA AND THE YOSEMITE VALLEY."

Illustrated with beautiful illuminated Photographs, covering 500 square feet, and now exhibited, for the first time in this city, at the

HALL OF THE MERCANTILE LIBRARY,

TENTH Street, above Chestnut.

Doors open at 7 o'clock. Commences at 8. Tickets, 50 cents; to be had at Parry's drug store, Eighth and Arch Streets, and at McAllister's, No. 728 Chestnut St. 12 5 4

LADIES' FAIR.

IN AID OF THE

BROAD STREET SYNAGOGUE.

WILL BE FORMALLY OPENED

AT CONCERT HALL.

ON TUESDAY EVENING, Dec. 7.

By the Hon. D. M. FOX and the Rev. Dr. JASTROW, and will continue for two weeks.

12 5 4

REMOVAL.

THE TRADESMEN'S NATIONAL BANK

has removed to No. 306 WALNUT Street, owing to the destruction of the Commercial Exchange Building by fire last night. All the valuables and the books of the Bank are entirely safe, the banking room having been injured by water only.

JOHN GASTNER, Cashier.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 8, 1869.

UNION LEAGUE HOUSE,

BROAD STREET.

PHILADELPHIA, December 6, 1869.

The Annual Meeting of the UNION LEAGUE OF PHILADELPHIA will be held at the LEAGUE HOUSE on MONDAY EVENING, December 13, at 7 o'clock, at which meeting there will be an Election for Officers and Directors for the ensuing year.

GEORGE H. BOKER, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE LEHIGH COAL AND NAVIGATION COMPANY.

PHILADELPHIA, December 8, 1869.

Coupons due the 15th instant on the Gold Loan of this company will be paid at their office, in gold, on and after that date. Holders of ten or more coupons can obtain receipts therefor prior to that date.

S. SHEPHERD,

Treasurer.

12 5 4

PANHAM FAMILY SEWING MACHINE

is sold on easy monthly instalments.

12 5 4

CLOTHING.

An Astonished Multitude!!

Astonished at the Excellence of the Goods

of ROCKHILL & WILSON.

Astonished at the greatness of the Stock

of ROCKHILL & WILSON.

Astonished at the crowds rushing to buy

of ROCKHILL & WILSON.

Astonished at the satisfaction they enjoy buying

of ROCKHILL & WILSON.

Astonished

More than all

At the MARVELLOUS

REDUCTION IN PRICE

ON ALL THE WINTER STOCK

of ROCKHILL & WILSON.

Now is your time for Winter Bargains.

Now is your time for Low Prices.

Now is your time for Fine Clothes, cheap.

Now is your time for Great Reductions.

Now is your time to lay in a

Splendid stock of

Elegant Winter Clothes

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Great Brown Hall,

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PHILADELPHIA.

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CALLOWHILL STREET WHARF,

DELAWARE RIVER.

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